

HO-1059  
Otto Berner House  
1575 Woodstock Road  
Private

#### Description

The Otto Berner House is a 2 ½-story, five-bay by one-bay frame I-house with a "T" plan, having a one-story, two-bay by two-bay ell on the rear with later shed-roofed additions on both the northeast and southwest sides of the ell. The house has aluminum siding and a gable roof on the main block with a northeast-southwest ridge, and a gable on the ell with a northwest-southeast ridge; all of the roofing is asphalt shingles. The main block has two interior brick chimneys on the ridge, flanking the center bay. The northwest elevation has a center entrance with a transom and is flanked by two four-over-four sash with faux blinds to each side. There is a three-bay, two-story metal porch with a concrete deck, ironwork posts in a foliate vine pattern, and an open deck on the second story with a iron railing. The second story has a door in the center, flanked by two typical sash to each side. There is a cross gable centered on the roof, with a semi-circular-arched two-over-two sash, and a box cornice with returns.

#### Significance

The Otto Berner House sits on part of a 2 ¼-acre lot that was purchased by Otto Berner in 1879 for only \$200.50. Berner was a 48-year-old mason originally from Prussia, and was married and had four sons living at home. Given the number of quarries in Woodstock, it is not surprising that he moved to this area. Berner took out two mortgages on the property, in 1879 and 1882, and was foreclosed upon in 1898. The house was sold at auction that year to Charles Darr for \$1,800. It would seem likely that Berner built the existing house in the first couple of years of ownership. It is a very typical cross-gabled I-house, of which there are many in and around Woodstock, but seems to be one of the earliest ones in the immediate area, and thus may have set the pattern for the many that followed. By placing the chimneys on the interior, flanking a center stairway, windows could be placed in the gable end walls, which was a change to the traditional pattern of construction in Howard County where the fireplaces were on the gable ends. Much of the sparse decorative treatment given the house was focused on the cross gable. Darr immediately sold the property to Charles Berner, the oldest son of Otto, but he was shortly foreclosed upon and the house was sold again in 1905.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. HO-1059

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Otto Berner House

other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street and number 1575 Woodstock Road      not for publication

city, town Woodstock      vicinity

county Howard

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Peter & Carmen Day

street and number 1575 Woodstock Road telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Woodstock state MD zip code 21163

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Howard County Courthouse liber 1549 folio 352

city, town Ellicott City tax map 10 tax parcel 145 tax ID number \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				<u>0</u>	

## 7. Description

Inventory No. HO-1059

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Otto Berner House is located at 1575 Woodstock Road, on the southeast side of the road, and faces northwest toward the road at the outskirts of Woodstock in north-central Howard County, Maryland. It is set close to the road on a lot that slopes down to the northeast.

The house is a 2 ½-story, five-bay by one-bay frame I-house with a "T" plan, having a one-story, two-bay by two-bay ell on the rear with later shed-roofed additions on both the northeast and southwest sides of the ell. The house has aluminum siding and a gable roof on the main block with a northeast-southwest ridge, and a gable on the ell with a northwest-southeast ridge; all of the roofing is asphalt shingles. The main block has two interior brick chimneys on the ridge, flanking the center bay.

The northwest elevation has a center entrance with a transom and is flanked by two four-over-four sash with faux blinds to each side. These windows are typical for the house. There is a three-bay, two-story metal porch with a concrete deck, ironwork posts in a foliate vine pattern, and an open deck on the second story with a iron railing. The second story has a door in the center, flanked by two typical sash to each side. There is a cross gable centered on the roof, with a semi-circular-arched two-over-two sash, and a box cornice with returns, covered with aluminum.

The northeast elevation of the main block has a typical window on the first story, no opening on the second story, and a typical window in the gable end. The southwest elevation of the main block is identical to the northeast. Both sides of the ell are covered by the non-historic additions. The southeast elevation of the ell has two windows on the first story and a small window in the gable end.

The living room has a rebuilt fireplace with a new brick mantel, and has a cupboard with a board door built into the side of the chimney above the mantel.

There are no other buildings on the property.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. HO-1059

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____	

Specific dates N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Construction dates c. 1879-80

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Otto Berner House sits on part of a 2 ¼-acre lot that was purchased by Otto Berner in 1879 for only \$200.50. Berner was a 48-year-old mason originally from Prussia, and was married and had four sons living at home. Based on census data, Berner must have immigrated after the Civil War, making him a late German arrival to Howard County. Given the number of quarries in Woodstock, it is not surprising that he moved to this area. Berner took out two mortgages on the property, in 1879 and 1882, and was foreclosed upon in 1898. The house was sold at auction that year to Charles Darr for \$1,800. It would seem likely that Berner built the existing house in the first couple of years of ownership, when he was mortgaging the property probably to get funds for construction. It is a very typical cross-gabled I-house, of which there are many in and around Woodstock, but seems to be one of the earliest ones in the immediate area, and thus may have set the pattern for the many that followed. The form, minus the cross gable, is a very traditional one for Howard County. However, by placing the chimneys on the interior, flanking a center stairway, windows could be placed in the gable end walls, which was a change to the traditional pattern of construction in Howard County where the fireplaces were on the gable ends. Much of the sparse decorative treatment given the house was focused on the cross gable. The addition of a window here made the attic space more functional, but these attics were rarely ever finished for living space. Though Berner was a mason, he built a frame house, probably because a brick or stone house would have been beyond his means, even with providing his own labor.

Darr immediately sold the property to Charles Berner, the oldest son of Otto, but he was shortly foreclosed upon and the house sold again in 1905. At this time the acreage was divided in half and the house was purchased by Kate Rowley for \$1,500. She retained the house until 1926, after which time it changed hands frequently through the 1930s and 1940s.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. HO-1059

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1 A  
Acreage of historical setting 2 1/4 A  
Quadrangle name Sykesville

Quadrangle scale: 1:24000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries consist of the outlines of the property, tax map 10, parcel 145, which encompasses all of the historic buildings and features on the site.

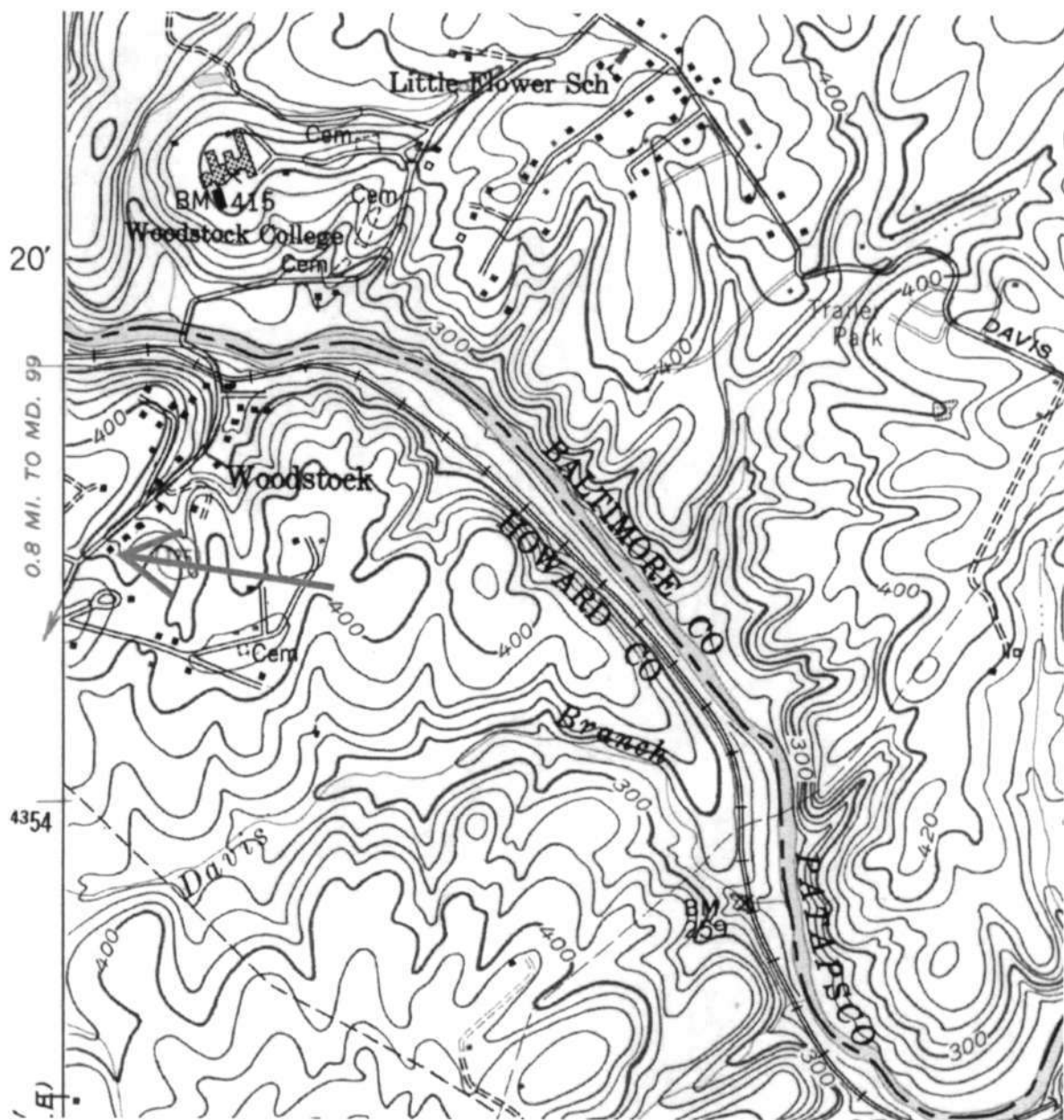
## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Ken Short		
organization	Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning	date	November 2011
street & number	3430 Courthouse Drive	telephone	410-313-4335
city or town	Ellicott City	state	MD

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



HO-1059  
Otto Berner House  
1575 Woodstock Road  
Ellicott City quad

HO-1059  
Otto Berner House  
1575 Woodstock Road  
Howard County, Maryland  
Ken Short, photographer

Photo Log

Nikon D-70 camera  
HP Premium Plus paper  
HP Gray Photo print cartridge

HO-1059\_2011-11-02\_01  
Northeast & northwest elevations

HO-1059\_2011-11-02\_02  
Northwest & southwest elevations







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1575 Woodstock Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-11-02

MD SHPO

Northeast + northwest elevations

1 of 2



HD-1059

Otto Berner House

1575 Woodstock Road

Howard County, Maryland

Ken Short

2011-11-02

MD SHPO

Northwest + southwest elevations

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